journey

APRIL 1983

preview of TORONTO

Toronto, Canada, is a perfect city for a Conference. It has an excellent public transportation system, including a subway that is clean, safe and fairly inexpensive. A number of shopping centers including the Eaton Center, downtown, which is a marvel of architectural beauty. Many small and attractive eating places. And an interesting list of educational, historical and recreational places to visit.

When Phil Gallnitz and Richard Ploen of the Conference Management Team visited Toronto recently they found a friendly welcome and despite the cold weather and snow they were able to visit the University of Toronto, where the Conference is to be held, the Park Plaza Hotel, the Church in Toronto and downtown Toronto.

Gary Chapman, Conference coordinator from the host Church, acted as host to the duo and got them to their meetings and gave them a walking tour of the city. Gary is a veritable walking encyclopedia of knowledge of the city of Toronto.

The University of Toronto has a large campus in the center of the city. It is made up of a number of colleges. General Conference will be held in New College. Worship services will be held daily in Convocation Hall which is a large circular auditorium seating over 1700. It has a large pipe organ which we will be renting.

Meetings will be held in the Medical Sciences Building which has an auditorium and numerous classrooms and seminar rooms. Because it is a school we are able to make use of some of the resident halls on the campus for housing. Rooms consist of a single bed in a room or two single beds per room. Bathroom facilities are off the hall. Breakfast is included in the room charge and will be at Wilson Hall in New College, one of the residences we have. The rooms are quite comfortable but not Spartan.

When conference attendees arrive for General Conference they should go first to their residence hall or to their hotel, if they have chosen to stay there, and get settled in their room. People who have made room requests for the University residence halls will have been informed which hall they will stay in.

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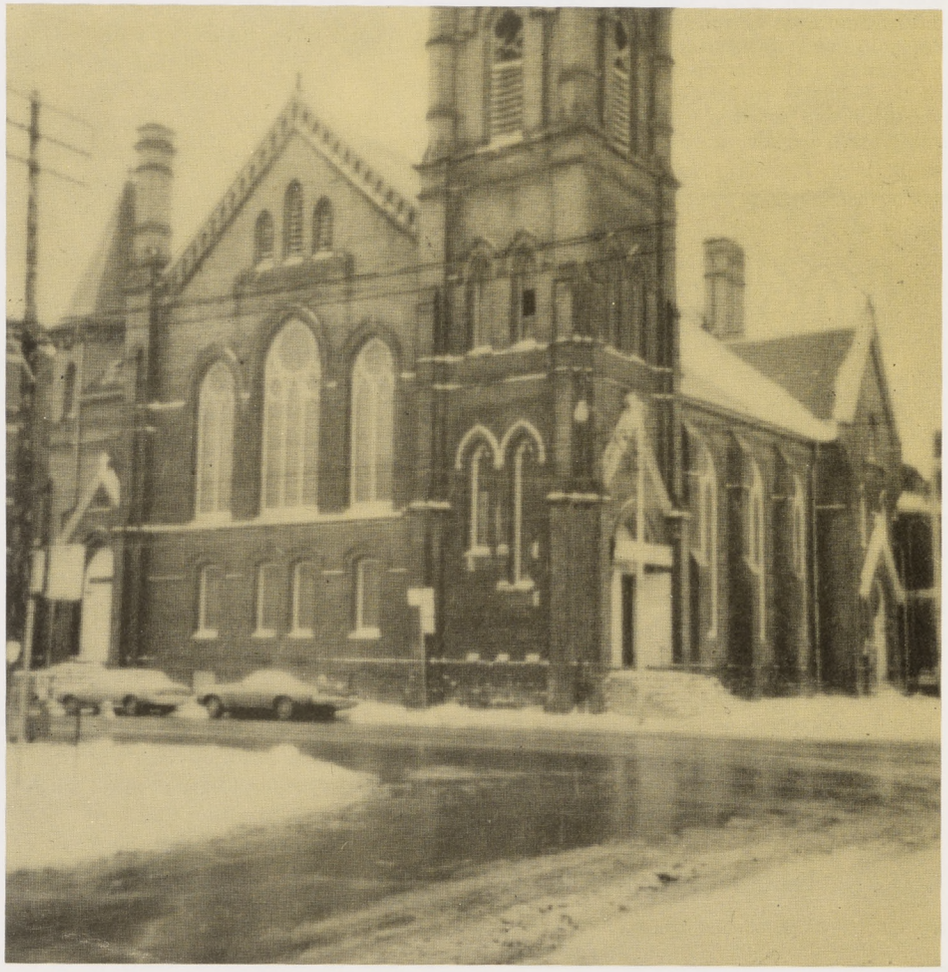

RIGHT: MCC Toronto meets in the educational building of Bathurst St. Baptist Church. (The snow pictured here will be gone by July).

LEFT: Toronto General Conference Committee from left to right are Bob Foster, Gary Chapman, Rev. Brent Hawkes and Bill Watts.

GC continued from page 4

Since most people will be arriving on Sunday, July 10th and the first meeting of Conference will be in the morning of Monday, July 11th, it will be a great opportunity to visit the regular Sunday worship service of MCC Toronto on Sunday evening at 7 p.m. Those who plan to stay over on Sunday, July 17th are invited to join with the church to celebrate their 10th Anniversary.

Toronto MCC is taking the title of "host church" seriously. They plan to provide a "hospitality room" at the University to be open almost continuously throughout the Conference. Also they are producing a "Memorabilia Booklet" which will provide lots of valuable information including nearby restaurants, sight seeing places and a sample listing of all varieties of community places.

The members of the Toronto congregation have offered to make housing available to persons attending the Conference from World Church Extension churches and those coming from outside the continent. This is a generous contribution they wish to make to encourage those whose travel expenses will be so costly. Interested persons should contact the church. The address is: MCC Toronto, 730 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2R4.

During the Conference a Nursery room will be available at the Toronto Church. The plan is for parents to share the responsibilities for this program. Anyone who will want to avail themselves of this possibility must contact the Church by May 1, 1983. See the address given above.

There are a number of hotels near the campus. A list of these may be obtained by writing to the Registrar at the UFMCC Office, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

While the photos that Richard took in Toronto give the impression that he and Phil met with some pretty wintery weather, everyone they talked to assured them that by conference time in July it would be considerably warmer.

Not only can we expect good weather, but it portends to be one of the best of Conferences.

ABOVE: During General Conference worship services will be held at Convocation Hall on the University of Toronto campus.

FFO

UFMCC's Commission on Faith, Fellowship and Order

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article by Rev. Gilbert in reprinted from an early edition of *THE GAY CHRISTIAN* when it was being published by the Northeast District.

Faith, Fellowship and Order is developing a grass roots Christian Theology of Sexuality. The following story does not report an official stand by FFO. These articles will reflect the diversity of UFMCC.

by Joseph Gilbert
Clergy Representative to FFO
Southeast District

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But I am concerned that we may be rushing to judgment in another area. It seems to me that a people who stand, according to Leviticus, in bloodguiltyness need to give some very real thought to Christian morality. I believe that through Christ's life, death and resurrection I am free of the judgment of that Levitical law. But I see brothers and sisters of this Fellowship daring to judge the lives of themselves and others not on the basis of "What would Christ have me do?" but "What laws apply to me?"

I do not pretend to have any special access to Christ's wisdom. I have found that ordination made me neither wiser, nor holier than I was before. If a man calls me at three o'clock in the morning and whispers "I'm married. I have children, I want to maintain my home and family. But increasingly, I realize I am Gay. What do I do?" . . . I am not always sure what Christ would have me to say. Or someone comes to me with a problem unique to their lifestyle which I do not understand, and I am not always sure what Christ would have me say. I find myself in sexual situations in which I am not always sure what Christ would have me do.

But I do know I am forbidden to simply turn to the law. . .any code at all. . . and say, "This is the answer." Instead I must see what actions will reflect God's love and our loveableness. One of the finest couples I know in this Fellowship do not define loyalty to each other in terms of "body-fidelity." Their love for each other permits sexual contacts outside that relationship. I believe theirs is a true and honest love. And yet I find myself sometimes asking what effect they have on the lives of others . . . persons with whom they have casual sex.

Because I know these two people, I believe that each such person knows that he has been truly perceived as a real person. That very attitude may well legitimize an act that others might consider immoral. But the lack of it may very well flaw an act that others might consider moral.

Not too long ago I was being taken to the airport in one of our cities. Up front, two of the brothers were talking. In the back, a young man I love and respect very much rode beside me. In the middle of an otherwise casual conversation, he handed me a pack of matches advertising one of the local baths, smiled and pointed to himself. I asked if he had enjoyed himself.

> Upcoming articles by Faith, Fellowship and Order representatives are: "The Risen Christ and Sexual Liberation" by Rev. Marianne Van Fossen; "Evangelism and Sexuality" by Rev. Jo Crisco, "Eucharist and Embodiment" by Rev. Jennie Boyd Bull and "Sexual Holiness" by Sally Sumerall.

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SPIRITUAL SELF"

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CC Baltimore
Fellowship and Order

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tor, Good Shepherd Parish MCC
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JULY 11 - 17, 1983

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CONGRESS continued from page 6

Once such a determination is made, money can be spent out of the revolving fund for biomedical research at or through the NIH into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disorder or disease. The bill also would allow the Secretary to waive current peer review and competitive bidding requirements, which often take six to eight months to finish, delaying important research in crisis situations, and would require annual reports to the Congress on how the money in the fund has been spent.

Tim Westmoreland, Assistant Counsel for Rep. Waxman's Subcommittee on Health and the Environment told *JOURNEY* that "obviously AIDS is *the* public health emergency which is at hand" and the fund would most probably be used to do research and treatment of AIDS, though other unusual public health crises such as Legionaires Disease and toxic shock syndrome would have been eligible for funding the way the legislation is drafted. "AIDS prompted this legislation," Westmoreland said, adding that Representative Waxman may introduce the bill as an amendment to the NIH authorization bill which is coming before his subcommittee early this spring, in addition to having it stand as separate legislation.

What Can You Do?

As always, there are important things each of us can do to help this legislative process. Steve Endean of the Gay Rights National Lobby, says that we have an excellent chance of getting the Lesbian/Gay civil rights bill out of committee for the first time in this Congress! But legislators need to hear from their constituents. What was true when this writer started lobbying for Gay and Lesbian rights in 1975 is still true –most legislators have not heard from substantial numbers of their Gay and Lesbian constituents!

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WHY?

by Bob Arthur
Collective Writer

I am currently teaching a course at Samaritan Education Center on Luke/Acts. One of the questions that inevitably arises when teaching Luke comes from the eighth chapter. Many have asked the question, "Why would Jesus, in deference to the request of demons, allow them to enter a herd of pigs and destroy them?" Historically there have been several different answers, but not many which are really satisfying. After our discussion on this subject, I decided to spend some time in study to find a more satisfying answer.

Depending on whether one reads from Matthew, Mark, or Luke, Jesus was in the country of either the Gaderenes, Gergesenes, or Gerasenes. This is really no problem, since Gerasa (sometimes called Gergesa) was a small town in that region of the Decapolis dominated by the regional capital city of Gadara. That would be like calling a resident of Los Angeles a Los Angelino or a Californian. Either is correct. However, from Josephus we know that this area was inhabited by people primarily of Greek origin. So although pigs were unclean to Jews, the Greeks were under no such constraint in raising pigs.

Why then would Jesus permit the destruction of personal property in the context of healing a demoniac? The question reminds us of the similar question that arises when we read of God's allowing a faithful servant like Job to be afflicted with the loss of possessions. A standard answer to either question is a reading of Romans 11:33-36: "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are God's judgments, and God's ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of God? Or who has been God's counselor? Or who has first given to God, and shall be repaid again? For of, through, and to God, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen."

While that is definitely true, God allows us understanding from time to time, of the ways in which God operates. In a reading of John 9, the healing of the man who was blind from birth, we find non-acceptance by the Pharisees. There was even a hint that the man may have conspired with Jesus to pull off a hoax! We do not read of many who came to believe in the Christ as a result of this miracle.

However, in the healing of the demoniac, not only was he freed of possession, but another visible evidence that could not be labelled a hoax took place at the same time: some 2,000 pigs became possessed and destroyed themselves (Mark 5:13). What was the result? Of ocurse the immediate reaction was fear, and a request for Jesus to leave the country. But Mark 5:20 tells us that after Jesus left, his fame was spread throughout the Decapolis and everyone was astonished. There was no attempt to disprove or disclaim what Jesus had done. In fact we read in early church history, how Gadara became a center of Christianity and the seat of a bishop. So we might infer that because of Jesus allowing these pigs to be destroyed, a whole region became Christian.

But what is the lesson here for us? Perhaps it is that we must not be short-sighted in our observations. In John 9:2, the disciples asked Jesus whose sin caused a man to be born blind. Jesus' response was that it was neither, but an opportunity to show forth God's majesty in the healing of blindness. Too often we do the same thing. But we should learn from our own history. We have lost several churches to arson in our brief history. The first question that inevitably arises is, "Why?" Why is God doing this to us? Why do we deserve such calamity? Why doesn't God spare us when we are about the work of God? Yet we have seen in every case, it has worked to our benefit in some way: usually increased outreach.

Maybe it is time for us to stop continually questioning God, and to begin trusting God to know what God is doing, and to claim Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to God's purpose."

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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS

The Board of Elders, at our meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, FL on February 18-22, voted unanimously to reorganize the central offices of the UFMCC.

The action was taken after a long period of study, evaluation and consultation. We believe the new plan will be cost-effective and better serve the changing needs of our growing Fellowship.

The Board of Elders will be hiring a Director of Administration who will have primary administrative responsibility for the central offices. The details about this job and other jobs available have been sent to every church in the Fellowship, to other publications and to Lesbian and Gay organizations. (See *JOURNEY* classifieds). Reorganization will begin April 1, 1983.

CONGRESS continued from page 9

Congress. The forces of anti-Lesbian/Gay demagoguery are already active against this legislation and Congresspeople need the support of Lesbians and Gay men and nonLesbian/Gay supporters to spur them to co-sponsor and support our legislation.

Write for the new edition of WRITING TO CONGRESS, the second edition of the *Let's Do The Gpsoel Series*, which provide helpful tips on writing your representatives and a new Bible study. *Writing to Congress* is available for $1.00 (75 cents each for over five copies) from the UFMCC Department of Christian Social Action, 8301 - 16th Street, Suite 201, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

Join the Gay Rights National Lobby. Memberships are only $20 and by joining you will become part of a lobbying team that deserves most of the credit for the record number of co-sponsors of the Lesbian/Gay civil rights legislation in the last Congress and the success of the bills before Congress now. Send checks made out to GRNL to P.O. Box 1892, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Become a GRNL Field Associate. Gay Rights National Lobby is signing up field associates in every Congressional District in the U.S., people who will help mobilize support for pro-Gay legislation and organize letter writing campaigns, lobbying and Congressional visits. Become a GRNL Field Associate by writing to Susan Green, GRNL, P.O. Box 1892, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Lastly, be informed, be involved and pray. We have a Biblical directive to "prophesy to the rulers" (Ezekiel 34) and as people of faith we have a responsibility to share our sense of God's love for all people with those people who are in positions of responsibility for the governing of our country.
must be with the legislators, as well as with the people who are working to make government more responsive to the needs of the people.

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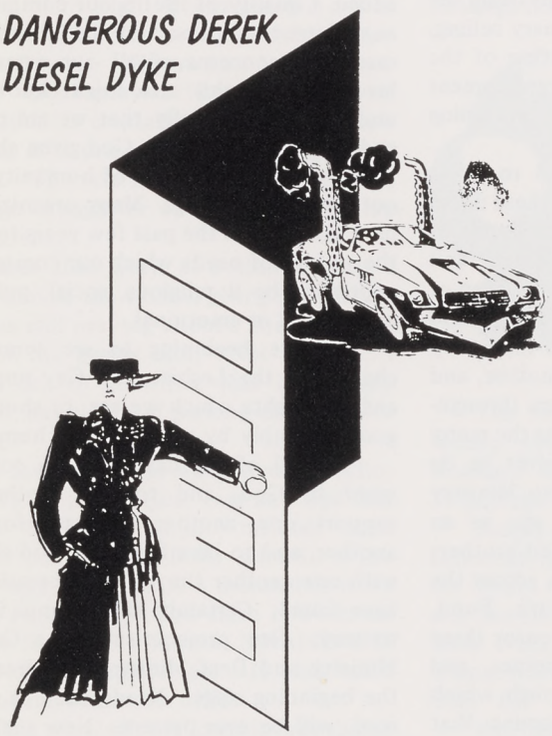

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fellowship news

our journey

"COMING OF AGE"
by Mary Merriman
Student Clergy, MCC Tampa

For some people, one of the greatest responsibilities and commitments one makes in a lifetime is the purchase of a home, as it requires a great deal of care and steadfastness to keep up with the continual mortgage payments and the cost of upkeep and repair to the home.

Consequently, a sigh of relief is heard and a celebration ensues when one makes the payoff on the property and can feel reasonably secure in the fact that there is a "home to call one's own."

MCC Tampa, FL will "sigh" and "celebrate" April 15th through the 17th as we complete a decade of responsibility and commitment and "BURN OUR MORTGAGE!!!" As part of our celebration, we would like to share a brief history of MCC Tampa - our home!

MCC Tampa was founded in 1971 by the Rev. Lee Carlton, currently Pastor of MCC of the Palms in Ft. Myers, FL. The first meeting place was in the Franciscan Center, (currently Dignity Tampa's meeting place), with approximately 12 people in attandance. In a short period of time, membership grew to the 50's and 60's and a more permanent meeting location was sought.

The group met in a Presbyterian church for a short period of time and then sought space with the Unitarian Church in April of 1972. They began by renting the space, but in March, 1973, during the pastorate of Rev. Charles Larsen, currently Pastor of MCC of the Resurrection in Houston, TX, a mortgage for the purchase of the building was signed. Signing the mortgage was a big step, as it signified the intention of MCC Tampa to make a long term commitment, 10 years at the least, to serving God through the Church's efforts in the Tampa Bay community. (Incidentally, long term commitments are not foreign to MCCT as relationships of 5, 10, 15 and 30 years are not uncommon among our membership. Remarkably, one couple celebrated their 50th Anniversary this last August!)

Getting back to the history. Church membership continued to grow. As is true of all buildings and of all groups seeking to establish themselves, a variety of needs and desires came into being. Rev. John Hose, who is Elder Emeritus of the UFMCC and currently serving as a Worship Coordinator in North Carolina, became pastor in 1974. In the years to follow, a five year plan of renovation was developed and begun in order to make the various repairs needed for the church building, and to add those elements which would beautify God's house of worship.

New pews, a new organ, new sanctuary air conditioning, and a new roof were but a few of the major tasks of this community and family. In 1979, Rev. Marilyn R. Marr became, and currently serves as the pastor of MCC Tampa. We have completed the major portions of the five year plan mentioned earlier, the latest additions being the renovation of the church sanctuary ceiling, sound and lighting; the insulation of the entire church building; and the replacement of the Fellowship Hall air conditioning system.

MCC Tampa is not limited to being solely an edifice, however. As these doors have remained open, literally thousands of people have passed through them, and many have lovingly and unselfishly given of their time, their talents, their money and themselves to see this become a testimony to our love of God, for one another, and for all of our sisters and brothers throughout the Tampa Bay area. Among the many ways in which this church gives in its outreach are the Nursing Home Ministry established over seven years ago as an outreach to our elderly sisters and brothers confined in the nursing home across the street; the Christian Children's Fund, through which we currently sponsor three children in Uganda, the Phillipines, and Brazil; the Prison Ministry through which hundreds of prisoners are learning that there are those who care and that God loves them, too; our Christmas Project through which we provide food and gifts to families in need in the Tampa Bay region; as well as innumerable ongoing projects such as walk-a-thons, charities, etc.

In addition, MCC Tampa, in years past, planted the seeds for MCC King of Peace in St. Petersburg, as well as work begun in Sarasota and Orlando. Our inreach programs include, but are not limited to, Christian Education, the Deacon's Closet through which we provide food for our people in need, and which we have recently expanded to allow our members to take food to people whom they know are in need as a personal ministry, the C.A.R.E. program (Christian Awareness & Responsibility), as well as a host of Committees, the BOD and Pastoral Staff upon whom we depend to provide sound leadership and direction in meeting the many responsibilities which we have assumed.

Being the first, and longest sustaining organization in the Tampa Bay area has not been easy. The past 12 years have had times of abuse, pain, hurt, fire and vandalism. God, however, has also blessed us immeasurably and remained loving and caring, giving this family of God the strength to overcome every obstacle placed in its path, and to remain steadfast in our charge to teach and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As MCC Tampa has remained open to the public media, we pray that we have added a quality of life to our community, as we have tried to portray the lifestyle and cares and concerns of all our sisters and brothers, that this area might know and understand more fully that we are people endowed with all of the God given abilities which are shared by all of humanity, and not just sexual beings. Many organizations have emerged in the past few years to meet the variety of needs which our community expresses, be it religious, social, political, economical or emotional.

We are beginning to see some real changes in the Lesbian and Gay populace and the rights which we are, or should be granted simply by virtue of our humanity.

We, all of us, have made a commitment to God, and to one another, to support one another, to care for one another, and to be a family of God sharing with one another the joy and liberation we have found. Certainly MCC Tampa is here to stay. New projects such as a Campus Ministry and Deaf Ministry are already in the beginning stage. Needs, such as a new roof, will be ever present. New goals will be set for the future years to come, and with all of these will come new opportunities to continue to be all that we can be.

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JOURNEY continued from page 12

We are inviting the UFMCC to celebrate with us, be it in person at one of the activities planned for April 15th through 17th for which you may contact the church (Actual Mortgage Burning during the evening worship April 17), or in Spirit, as we Praise God for our "Coming of Age."

by Patricia Litka
Worship Coordinator
Modesto MCC

We need an office! An exciting yet frightening thought...it would be the first openly GAY office in Modesto...Modesto, where people ask "What church do you attend?" before they ask where you live, where you work or where you go to school. The Bible belt of Northern California. There are 324 churches listed in the 1982 telephone book, all within a 13 mile radius. Are we ready for this???

My fears vanished as we began to recall how the Lord had blessed Modesto MCC in the past 16 months.

We started praying for an office. The places we found were either in the "not so desirable" part of town or were too expensive. One night it was pointed out to me that I had not practiced what I had preached, i.e.: "When you pray be specific!" So I prayed "Lord, we need an office that is centrally located, has ample parking at a price our church budget can afford. The size is up to you but it must be large enough for us to hold classes, rap groups, etc."

Later that week at a dinner party, I asked one of the women giving the party if she was still praying about a church office. One of the guests said, "Not long ago I moved out of an office that is centrally located, has plenty of parking and the price is right."

A few days later we rented the office at 1115 K Street (just two and one half blocks from the 6,000 member First Baptist church and Bible school). The owner was asking $200 a month but if we would repair, paint and clean it we could lease it for $170 a month. PRAISE THE LORD!!! 600 square feet. It even has a small office within the office.

What wonderful fellowship was shared while painting and cleaning. (I must be honest...they didn't let me do anything except look...bless their hearts.)

Before we moved in the office with cardboard boxes for files and a card table for a desk we received a gift...and what a gift! Two women who had attended church gave $1000 for new desks, chairs and file cabinets. (God just "Keeps on blessing and blessing.")

Rev. Bob Cunningham gave us two couches , and two end tables with lamps were given by members from Merced. The $1000 gift also paid all the utility deposits and telephone transfer. On November 10th over 50 persons attended our open house.

During announcements on Sunday December 5th I was handed a card. I opened the Christmas card and stood there in shock...for the first time in my life I was speachless. A note said "Merry Christmas. Here is your copier." Love Jeanie Blackburn and Patricia Boggiano. There was a cashier's check for $2000. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer (Matthew 21:22).

Monday morning I called Modesto Typewriter to see if they still had the new Royal copiers...they sold for $2600...they had one left. I prayed and set off to see what kind of arrangements I could make. As I was ushered into the copier section of the store I saw a big red tag "CHRISTMAS SPECIAL 30% DISCOUNT." With a shaking hand I wrote the check for $1851.29. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

EXCEL

Excel in the Redwoods
(San Francisco Bay Area)
113 Columbia
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Excel Great Lakes
410 Baldwin Drive
Rochester, MI 48063

Excel in the Spirit:
Northwest Gathering
(Portland, OR)
4051 E. Burnside
Portland, OR 97214

Excel Los Angeles
926 Nowita Place
Venice, CA 90291

Excel in the Desert
(Phoenix)
P.O. Box 121
Scottsdale, AZ 85252

Excel by the Sea
(Santa Barbara)
125C North Milpas Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY RETREAT TO BE HELD IN APRIL

The Northwest District will be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of their Women's Spirituality Retreat from April 29 through May 1st.

Sisters can attend the Retreat at Camp Tamerack in Sisters, Oregon for $29. This fee covers lodging and meals for Saturday and Sunday. Working scholarships will be made available to offset part of the fee and arrangements are being made for lower rates for children and for child care.

Workshops will deal with women of the Old and New Testament, Jesus' ministry to women and women in religion today.

A sharing time will be used to tell the history of MCC and women. Meaningful worship services will also be provided.

For more information, please write or call:
Darlene Harryman
1846 Colorado
Boise, Idaho 83706
(208) 344-3038

MCC SEATTLE BEGINS SUNDAY SCHOOL

A long time dream was realized January 16 as the first Sunday School class for children of the Congregation was held. The class will meet during the regular Worship Service, and the children will return to the sanctuary to take Communion with their families.

The classes will be led by two teachers and the major focus will be a loving environment where the children can learn about Jesus, God and Holy Spirit. The

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the news

NEW BAPTIST ANTHOLOGY INCLUDED TINNEY SERMON

A sermon explaining God's identification with homosexuality through the human nature of Jesus Christ, based on St. Luke's account of the conversion of an Ethiopian eunuch, has been published in a new sermon anthology just released by Judson Press.

Authored by Dr. James S. Tinney, a Howard University professor and pastor of Faith Temple, a predominantly-Black Gay and Lesbian church in the nation's capital, the sermon is entitled, "What Meaneth This?" It is included in a new book, *Outstanding Black Sermons*. Judson Press is the official denominational publishing house of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

"This marks the first time any book by this Baptist publisher, or any collection of writings by major Black Christian leaders, has included a positive viewpoint on homosexuality," said Tinney.

STANDING ON THE PROMISES

Samuel Dorr chose to quit after nearly 20 years as a bank employee rather than give up his leadership role with the Louisville, Kentucky Dignity/Integrity chapter. A complaint has been filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), although bank officials point out that EEOC guidelines do not include sexual orientation as a category protected from discrimination.

First National Bank of Louisville spokesperson Jodie Goldberg said that Dorr's position as president of the Dignity/Integrity chapter constituted an "outside activity which may reasonably subject the bank to criticism or adverse publicity" as spelled out in its employee policy manual. Dorr, a branch manager, was asked to give up his lay ministry or resign. He has since had to rent his house and sell a number of possessions.

Gay and Lesbian activists in Louisville are organizing a boycott of First National and many depositors have already closed their accounts due to the bank's treatment of Dorr.

GRNL's NEW RIGHT TO PRIVACY FOUNDATION APPOINTS EDUCATION AND RESEARCH DIRECTOR

Rick Davis has been appointed Education and Research Director for the Right to Privacy Foundation, a new organization set up by the Gay Rights National Lobby to engage in research, analysis and education on public issues of national legislation of interest to Lesbians and Gay men. Davis, who holds a B.A. degree in speech and a law degree, served as a special projects coordinator during the St. Paul, Minnesota Lesbian and Gay rights referendum in 1978 and as an openly Gay member of the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights from 1979-1981.

Davis commented that while many other organizations engage in educational activities on homosexuality, "the Right to Privacy Foundation is unique in its focus on national legislation. We're choosing projects carefully to make sure we're highly effective while avoiding duplication of the functions and services of others."

A GRNL Press Release offered the following analysis of the movement: "Lesbian and Gay male activists, leaders and organizations are usually understaffed, underfinanced and seriously overworked. Faced not only with overcoming the old myths and stereotypes about Gay people, but with constant assaults by the reactionary New Right, the often almost frantically-busy activists are too often preoccupied with putting out the ever-present brush fires. Even for those not absorbed with brush fires, the shortage of funds, staff and time makes the execution of their civil rights program extremely difficult. There is scarcely the opportunity for careful analysis, planning or creative thinking."

Projects under consideration include the analysis of the impact of anti-gay bills and amendments in Congress and of the arguments being used by the Moral Majority and other such anti-gay groups.

The Foundation can be contacted at 750 - 7th Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

CHILDREN OF LESBIANS AND GAYS UNITE FOR SUPPORT

Statistics collected by the National Gay Task Force regarding Lesbian and Gay parents indicate that there are 10 to 12 million persons who share a mutual concern . . . that of a parent's homosexuality.

It has finally been recognized and acknowledged that a vast majority of children (who sooner or later learn of a parent's homosexuality) are acutely in need of counseling, support and assistance in their attempt to understand and cope with their personal feelings of confusion, anger or resentment . . . their sense of loss, rejection, isolation and stigma.

The plight of CHILDREN OF GAYS has been specifically addressed by Llana Lloyd of Los Angeles who has been joined by others working to develop a network of self-help support groups for a "new minority within a minority within a minority!" To date, COG support groups have been started in Los Angeles, San Diego, Washington, DC, New York City, Arlington, VA and Newport, Rhode Island. For information about or assistance in starting a COG support group in your area, please contact Llana Lloyd, 8306 Wilshire Blvd. No. 222, Beverly Hills, CA 90211; Telephone: (213) 738-1008 (no collect calls please).

CALL continued from page 2

sponsored by the Northwest District, 17 responded by attending an after-hours meeting to discuss all of this.

It is my recommendation that at the General Conference to be held in Toronto, an opportunity be provided for such persons to come together to discuss this concept. I could see meetings announced to take place after-hours on Monday and Tuesday evenings. It would be the task of those in attendance to see if there is substance to this matter of "Another Call" and what - if any - course we as a Fellowship might be encouraged to take to facilitate those who have experienced "Another Call."

I also recommend that publicity be given to this concept prior to Toronto so that there may be Fellowship-wide discussion of this idea.

It could be that my experience in the Fellowship is unique and that there is no need to explore this concept. It could also be that God is bringing this idea to consciousness at this time so that we may be led of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling God's unfolding purpose for this Fellowship in yet another way.

Substance Abuse Task Force

new beginnings

The Task Force on Substance Abuse will not be able to totally eliminate the problems of chemical abuse. It will, however, be an out-stretched hand to many of our sisters and brothers who feel trapped in the pain and misunderstanding of chemical abuse. Very little has been published on the subject of Substance Abuse within the Lesbian and Gay community.

It has been reported that 70-85% of the total U.S. population abuses chemicals in some form or another. It is not known what numbers are actually involved in this statistic from the Lesbian and Gay community. I feel assured that many of our sisters and brothers are not accounted for in these national surveys. If this is true, then we have an insurmountable need to reach out and offer our help to these individuals. You may ask, how can I, one person, do anything to help? The answer is simple; become involved and stand in support of educating as many people as possible on the facts, not myths, of chemical abuse.

I am confident that all of us at some point have come in close contact with individuals who have or are abusing chemicals. Some of us have even lived with the pain and agony of the chemically abusive person. Chemical abuse, ironically, is not an illness with an understandable cause and effect relationship. It is not an illness that strikes only the weak, or the wealthy, or the poor, or those of low intellectual functioning. It can be found in anyone.

Chemical abuse usually stems from an individual's attempt to cope with their problems and stresses involved in daily living. What this does, in essence, is allow the individual to mask their perceptions of reality and temporarily alleviate the pain surrounding the problem(s). This cycle leads the person further and further into trouble because they begin to lose touch with what the problem(s) actually are. The person begins to not be able to feel anything at all.

You still ask, how can I help? First, you can become actively involved and convinced that you *can* make a difference. Secondly, you can learn the basic fundamentals involved in chemical abuse. One of the main objectives of the Task Force will be to provide this kind of educational support.

The Task Force is comprised of a chairperson, Daune Littlefield, and three members; Shiley Young, Diablo Valley MCC; Rev. Steven Quesnel, South Atlantic District; and Rev. Michael Piazza, MCC Atlanta. These individuals are contributing a great deal of their time and talent toward completing the goals of the Task Force.

Young, a truly outstanding individual, has developed a greatly needed referral network for individuals who are experiencing crisis situations and have turned to MCC for assistance. Quesnel has formulated and instigated our first pilot program for a District Level Task Force on Substance Abuse. The concept of a District Task Force has been very successful and has stimulated a lot of local church member participation. In turn, the cost of providing these local church workshops has been very cost efficient. God is also blessing in other ways by providing lay representatives from the local churches who will be responsible for distributing information generated by the Task Force.

Projects that are planned for the coming year are to incorporate the concept of the District Task Forces in as many areas as possible. Secondly, to develop, publish and distribute a crisis intervention pamphlet for every church in the Fellowship which will provide practical guidelines on the "how to's" in dealing with a wide range of counseling situations.

The Task Force needs your support and prayers. We ask that you who are called to service in this area respond now and let us put you to work. If you feel that you want to work on this Task Force, simply write to me at the address listed below. Let us stand in Unity and Faith that as a chosen people we can make a difference in the world in which we live. May God gain the glory and the blessings from this project.

For Information:

G. Daune Littlefield, Chairperson
Substance Abuse Task Force
1810 Marland Wood Road, No. 2102
Temple, Texas 76502

or: c/o Agape MCC
2336 Hemphill
Ft. Worth, TX 76110

EDITOR'S NOTE: A report on Lesbian and Gay alcohol abuse titled the "Fifield Report" is available from:
The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center
c/o Alcohol Abuse Program
1213 N. Highland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90038
(Make $15 checks payable to the Alcohol Abuse Program).

JOURNEY continued from page 13

planned activities cover a broad spectrum and creativity will be encouraged and supported. Songs, books, games, crafts, outings and discussions are all ways people learn - children are little people and they learn the same way.

Support groups for the women and men of the Church were recently formed. Both meetings had good turnout and each group formed some positive plans for their development.

The Women's Group plans to meet on the second Saturday of each month and will plan various types of group activities. Their plans include some service projects such as raising funds for the Women's Retreat in Sisters, Oregon in April.

The Men's Group will meet each Thursday at 7:30 p.m. They plan to have rap sessions as well as various social functions.

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and trembling because that courage is called forth because people. . .you and I. . . are trying to define and judge in areas we are forbidden.

I am not suggesting license. I do not know the answers. But I believe that this is an area we must begin to discuss. We must begin to give real, and not superficial, thought to Gay and Lesbian Christian ethics and morality. It is not licit for us to go back into some sort of Levitical closet. But let us search out God's will for us, so that at any time, during any sexual encounter, we could turn to Christ and say, "Lord, this is a friend of mine."